Claims

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1. A method (900) for processing image or video data for a display, the method comprising the step of:

separating (905, 925) a stream of image or video data into a block of pixels, wherein each pixel within the block of pixels comprises a first sequence of pixel bit values for a colour component of said image or video and one or more bits to be discarded (730);

10 the method characterised by the steps of:

determining (950, 960), for the block of pixels, a binary value of said one or more bits to be discarded (730); and

modifying (955, 965) said first sequence of pixel

15 bit values as a block of pixels in response to said

determined binary value to form a reduced number of pixel

bit values to represent said colour component of a pixel

within the block of pixels.

20 2. The method (900) for processing image or video data for a display according to Claim 1, the method further characterised by the step of:

determining an average colour component for one or more colours of said block of pixels (930), wherein a number of said first sequence of pixel bit values represents a number of respective baseline colour component values of a pixel (935).

3. The method (900) for processing image or video 30 data for a display according to Claim 2, wherein the step of determining an average colour component (930) includes the step of:

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adding a number of colour components from a block of pixel data from said stream of image or video data to form a colour component pixel value; and

dividing said colour component pixel value by the number of pixels to provide an average colour component value.

4. The method (900) for processing image or video data for a display according to Claim 2 or Claim 3, the method further characterised by the step of:

truncating said average colour component value (920) by discarding one or more lesser significant bits (950, 960) to obtain a reduced number of bits forming said first sequence of pixel bit values for pixels within a block.

- 5. The method (900) for processing image or video data for a display according to Claim 1, wherein the step of modifying (955, 965) includes modifying a bit of higher significance within said first sequence of pixel bit values with one or more discarded (730) bits of lesser significance.
- 6. The method (900) for processing image or video
 25 data for a display according to Claim 1, wherein said
 step of determining (950, 960) a binary value of said one
 or more bits to be discarded (730) includes determining
 an offset for said respective colour component based on
 said one or more bits to be discarded (730), where said
 30 offset is used to determine the number of pixels within
 the block for which the baseline value of that colour
 component are to be modified.

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7. The method (900) for processing image or video data for a display according to Claim 6, the method further characterised by the step of:

dividing the offset value by a multiple of the

number of bits to be discarded (730) to indicate the
number of pixels within the block for which a correction
value is to be added to the baseline value of that colour
component.

10 8. The method (900) for processing image or video data for a display according to Claim 1, the method further characterised by the step of:

omitting said step of modifying when said first sequence of pixel bit values comprises a series of binary '1's, to avoid a bit-rollover when modifying said first sequence of pixel bit values.

9. The method (900) for processing image or video data for a display according to Claim 1, the method further characterised by the steps of:

determining a level of image detail in an image area of said stream of image or video data; and

applying said steps of determining a binary value of said one or more bits to be discarded (730) and modifying said first sequence of pixel bit values in response to determining a low level of image detail.

10. The method (900) for processing image or video data for a display according to Claim 9, wherein said step of determining a level of image detail includes determining a luminance value (910) for a number of pixels within a block of pixels, such that if the luminance value is below a threshold (915) then the block

of pixels are determined as residing within a low level of image detail.

- 11. An image or video processing system, adapted to perform the method steps of any of Claims 1 to 10.
 - 12. A display driver (111) for refreshing an image of a display device, wherein the display driver (111) is adapted to perform the method steps of Claim 1.
- 13. A storage medium storing processor-implementable instructions for controlling one or more processors to carry out the method of Claim 1.
- 15 14. An image or video communication device (100) having a display (110) adapted to perform the method steps of Claim 1.
- 15. A image or video communication device (100), the 20 device comprising:
 - a display (110) for displaying an image;
 - a processor (108), operably coupled to said display (110), for processing said image to be displayed wherein said processor is configured to separate a stream
- of image or video data into a block of pixels, wherein each pixel within the block of pixels comprises a first sequence of pixel bit values for a colour component of said image or video and one or more bits to be discarded (730), characterised in that the processor (108)
- determines a binary value of said one or more bits to be discarded (730) for the block of pixels, and modifies as a block of pixels said first sequence of pixel bit values based on the binary value to form a reduced number of bit

values that represent said colour component of a pixel within the block of pixels.

16. The image or video communication device (100)5 according to Claim 14 or Claim 15, wherein the image or video communication device (100) device is one of:

a cellular phone, a portable or mobile radio, a personal digital assistant, a laptop computer, a wirelessly networked PC.